

Message Text

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53

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SAM-01

NIC-01 DRC-01 /058 W

----- 124305

R 150723Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2535

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 11303

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJ: RED FLAG CALLS ON CADRE TO KEEP THE FAITH

SUMMARY. RED FLAG HAS TRIED TO BUCK UP THE MORALE OF CADRE
SUFFERING CONFUSION OVER THE LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE GOING ON ABOVE
THEIR HEADS. END SUMMARY.

1. A LEADING ARTICLE IN THE CURRENT ISSUE OF PEKING'S THEORETICAL
JOURNAL RED FLAG (NO. 10) IMPLIES THAT CHIN'S CADRE ARE PRESENTLY
IN A DEPRESSED, PSSIMISTIC FRAME OF MIND AS A RESULT OF THE
MURKY LEADERSHIP STRUGGLE AND THE CONFUSED PARTY LINE.
WITHOUT EVER STATING WHAT THE PROBLEM MIGHT BE, NOR HOW IT WILL
WORK OUT, THE ARTICLE, AUTHORED BY HUNG YU, EXHAUSTINGLY HARPS
ON THE INVEITABILITY OF "TWISTS AND TURNS" AND EXHORTS THE CADRE
TO KEEP FAITH IN THE CERTAINTY OF ADVANCE. THE ARTICEL PLUGS
OPTIMISM BY RECOUNTING PAST PERIODS OF UNCERTAINTY AND CONFLUCT
WICH THE REGIME WEATHERED AND TURNED TO BENEFIT.

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2. ALTHOUGH AT NO POINT EXPLICITLY STATED, PROBLEMS WITH THE

ECONOMY, THE INCONCLUSIVE STATUS OF THE POLITICAL MOVEMENT , AND THE UNCERTAIN OUTLOOK FOR SUCCESSION WOULD ALL FIT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE MORALE PROBLEM WHICH THE ARTICLE ADDRESSES. BEYOND OFFERING FAITH AS A BROMIDE, HOWEVER, THE ARTICLE GIVES PERPLEXED CADRE NO HINT OF WHICH WAY TO BEND IN LOOKING FOR THE LINE. THE COMPETING POLICIES OF UNITY AND STRUGGLE ARE DESCRIBED AS CO-EQUAL AND TO BE COMBINED AS THE CENTER FOCUS FOR CURRENT ATTENTION.

3. COMMENT.THE ARTICLE IS THE FRANKEST ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WE HAVE SEEN OF A CURRENT MORALE PROBLEM. IT IS POSSIBLE TO INTERPRET THE MESSAGE AS A TONIC FOR DISILLUSIONED SUPPORTERS OF THE LEFT, WHO MUST BE WONDERING MOST WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MOVEMENT AND WHY MORE RATHR THAN FEWER OF THE REVISIONIST OLD CADRE ARE ON THE SCENE WHILE YOUNG REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVISTS HAVE YET TO PUBLICLY SCORE SOLID GAINS IN AUTHORITY. IF THAT IS THE MESSAGE, THEN IT ADMITS TO A SETBACK BUT PLEDGES THAT THE STRUGGLE WILL GO ON TO ULTIMATE VICTORY. THE ARTICLE, HOWEVER, AVOIDS SUCH A CLEARCUT PARTISAN STAND. WE ARE INCLINED TO READ INTO IT A GENERAL WORD OF CONFORT TO ALL CADRE SUFFERING FROM A LOW EBB OF CONFIDENCE AS THE RESULT OF A STRUGGLE GOING ON WELL ABOVE THEIR HEADS.
CROSS

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